

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed June 14, 2007. Claims 1 – 17 remain in this application. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

112 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 – 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejections noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 4 - 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 – 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,335,421, GB 2358513 and U.S. Patent no. 4,267,489.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to better define Applicant's invention over the cited references. Claim 1 now recites limitations and/or features which are not disclosed by any the cited references.

Claim 1 as amended herein recites:

1. (Currently Amended) A lighting device comprising at least one light source arranged in a housing for emitting a lighting beam through a light-transmitting plate of the housing, wherein said plate is provided with means which reflect incident light on the plate such that light impinging at certain locations of said light-transmitting plate having a relatively higher light intensity than light impinging certain other locations of said light-transmitting plate is reflected more strongly at said certain locations wherein said means comprise at least one light-transmitting plate, having grooves formed therein, said grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder constituting a patterned reflective material, said grooves having a relatively higher pattern density at said certain locations and a relatively lower pattern density at said certain other locations, thereby reflecting more than 80% of the total incident light impinging on the entire light-transmitting plate.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest means comprising a light-transmitting plate, having grooves formed therein, said grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder constituting a patterned reflective material, said grooves having a relatively higher pattern density at said certain locations and a relatively lower pattern density at said certain other locations, thereby reflecting more than 80% of the total incident light impinging on the entire light-transmitting plate, as recited in claim 1.

It is noted that the Office Action fails to state with any specificity how each of the cited references allegedly teach or disclose how claims 1 – 3 and 17 are anticipated.

Accordingly, the applicant must speculate regarding the reason(s) for the alleged anticipation.

The 489' patent discloses a diffusive transparent plate 2 and a light homogenizing member 3 which is a 2 mm thick transparent acrylic plate 8 on which a reflection pattern 9 of a white ink is provided, by screen printing, in the form of dots spaced 1 mm apart, as shown in FIG. 2A. The reflection pattern 9 is formed on the transparent acrylic plate 8 so that the dots are large in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux from the fluorescent lamps 4 and 4' is large, but small in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux is small, as shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C. It is respectfully submitted that changing dot sizes in a reflection pattern so that dots are large in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux from the fluorescent lamps 4 and 4' is large, but small in size on those areas where the amount of luminous flux is small, of a pattern is different from grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder, the grooves having a relatively higher pattern density at said certain locations and a relatively lower pattern density at said certain other locations

The 513' patent discloses a pattern of reflective material which may be adopted on a panel. The size and/or spacing of elements of the pattern can be varied to alter the proportion of a given area which is covered by reflective material. It is respectfully submitted that changing a size and/or spacing of elements of a pattern is different from grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder, the grooves having a relatively higher

pattern density at said certain locations and a relatively lower pattern density at said certain other locations

The 421' patent discloses a light aperture, depicted as a translucent substrate 30 upon which a series of spaced apart and parallel reflective surfaces 40A, 40B, 41A, 41B, 42A, 42B, 43A, 43B, 44A, 44B, 45A, 45B, 46A, 46B, 47A, and 47B are attached. Reflective surfaces 40A, 40B, 41A, 41B, 42A, 42B, 43A, 43B, 44A, 44B, 45A, 45B, 46A, 46B, 47A, and 47B are also parallel to light source 10 and may conveniently be formed of reflective tape or paint. These reflective surfaces redirect light incident on them back towards the reflector 20. Between these reflective surfaces are interstitial spaces 50, 51A, 51B, 52A, 52B, 53A, 53B, 54A, 54B, 55A, 55B, 56A, 56B, 57A, 57B, 58A, and 58B allowing light incident at these points to pass through the translucent substrate 30 to the optically diffusive viewing panel 60. It is respectfully submitted that changing a size and/or spacing of elements of a pattern is different from grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder, the grooves having a relatively higher pattern density at said certain locations and a relatively lower pattern density at said certain other locations

It is respectfully submitted that at least the limitations and/or features of independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct over the cited references.. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 -3 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the

same reasons given for Claim 1 above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claims 2 – 3 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 17 recites similar subject matter as Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claim 17 is believed to recite statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

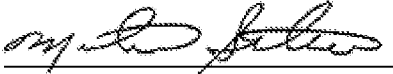
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of independent claim 17 be withdrawn, and independent claim 17 be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1 – 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mr. Frank Keegan, Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-945-9669.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Scaturro
Reg. No. 51,356
Attorney for Applicant

PATENT

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Mailing Address:

Intellectual Property Counsel

Philips Electronics North America Corp.

P.O. Box 3001

345 Scarborough Road

Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510-8001